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TO: All Property Owners, Managers, and Tenants, Except One-and Two-Family Dwellings and Row Houses (Townhouses)

FROM: T. K. Simler, Division Chief/Fire Marshal

DATE: May 17, 2000, Revised: June 30, 2004, July 10, 2006, December 19, 2007

SUBJECT: Grills - Prohibited Uses

A number of multi-family dwelling unit fires in the metro Atlanta area have increased public awareness of fire safety issues. As this office is responsible for enforcing fire safety standards within Cobb County, I would like to call your attention to matters related specifically to grilling on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

**Property owners, managers, and tenants are responsible for:**

- Verifying that open-flame cooking devices (grills) **are not** being used on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction, **and**
- Verifying that LP gas tanks larger than 2.5 lbs **are not** stored on balconies/patios, in closets or inside of dwelling units.

**Legal Consequences:**

Upon receipt of complaints that the law is being violated, the Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office may cite one or more responsible parties for the same violation.

Violation of the law is a misdemeanor crime, for which an individual may be punished by a fine up to \$1,000 and/or a jail term up to 60 days as set forth in the Official Code of Cobb County (Sec. 54-51).

**Acknowledgement:**

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that fire safety standards are observed in the interest of preserving life and property.

I have been given a copy of this letter and had it explained to me.

Print Name

Date Received

Signature

Name of Complex

If any of the following items apply to your building, this letter **does not** apply to you:

- Your building is built of noncombustible construction (see definition);
- Your building has a sprinkler system installed per code requirements **with** sprinkler protection provided on your balcony/patio (there is a sprinkler head(s) on the outside of all units over the balcony/patio); **and/or**  
You are using an electric grill.

## References

### Definitions:

*Combustible construction* means any building constructed with wood framing. Brick or other noncombustible material on the exterior of a wood frame building is considered to be a building constructed of combustible construction, and **is required to comply** with the code sections listed in this letter.

*Noncombustible construction* means a building constructed with noncombustible framing and siding. This letter **does not** apply to these buildings.

*One-and two-family dwellings* mean any building with no more than two dwelling units. This letter **does not** apply to these buildings.

*Row houses (townhouses)* means any building with a two hour fire wall between each dwelling unit. This letter **does not** apply to these buildings.

*Open-flame cooking devices* mean a charcoal grill, propane grill or other cooking device that uses an open flame. This letter **does** apply to you.

*Electric grill* means a cooking device that is heated with electricity and does not have an open flame. This letter **does not** apply to these devices.

### Code Requirements:

The following code sections are from the International Fire Code, and refer to buildings of combustible construction:

#### **Section 308.3.1 Open-flame cooking devices:**

Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

##### *Exceptions:*

1. One-and two-family dwellings
2. Where buildings, balconies, and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

#### **Section 308-3.1.1 Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices:**

LP-gas burners having an LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP gas capacity] shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

*Exception:* One-and two-family dwellings